

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 A-01 SY-10 OPR-02 AID-20 PC-15

RSR-01 /123 W

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O R 201506Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 731

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

MEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 1799

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USCINCSO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 5086

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: ,/A

TAGS: PINT, BL

SUBJ: ABORTIVE COUP BY CARLOS VALVERDE, EX-FSB MILITANT

REF: LA PAZ 5078

1. AFTER REPEATED CALLS TO THE REBELS TO GIVE THEMSELVES UP TO THE AUTHORITIES, THE MILITARY UNITS FACING THE COTTON FARM IN WHICH VALVERDE ALLEGEDLY WAS HIDING FINALLY MOVED IN FOR THE KILL AND FOUND NOTHING. THE REBELS HAD DISBANDED AND ESCAPED, WEAPONS AND ALL. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, IN A MIDNIGHT PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID THAT THE INITIAL ESTIMATE OF 190 PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIR WAS MUCH TOO HIGH, THAT THE FARM IS A VERY LARGE ONE AND COULD NOT BE SURROUNDED. THIS EXPLAINS WHY THERE WERE NO CAPTURES OR KILLINGS.

2. MEANWHILE, LIFE IN THE TOWN OF SANTA CRUZ, ABOUT THIRTY UNCLASSIFIED

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MILES FROM THE SCENE OF MILITARY ACTION, WAS PROCEEDING

ROUTINELY EXCEPT FOR THE FESTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT BANZER AND HIS PARTY. THE PRESIDENT WALKED THE STREETS AND ATTENDED DEDICATION CEREMONIES AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED AND, TO QUOTE FROM A LA PAZ NEWSPAPER, SOME MINISTERS WERE SEEN IN PUBLIC PLACES "COMPARTIENDO CON AMIGOS Y AMISTADES."

3. MININT ALSO SAID THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN NO ACTUAL CONTACT YET BETWEEN EXTREME LEFTIST GROUP IN SALTA, ARGENTINA AND VALVERDE GROUP, HE HAD HARD INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT SALTA GROUP WAS PREPARED TO HELP VALVERDE IN LATTER'S COUP ATTEMPT.

4. THE GOVERNMENT HAS ARRESTED SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS ALLEGEDLY ASSOCIATED WITH VALVERDE'S MACHINATIONS IN LA PAZ, TRINIDAD, SANTA CRUZ, COCHABAMBA AND ORURO. THE SEARCH CONTINUES FOR THE ESCAPEES AND THEIR WEAPONS. SPECULATION IS THAT VALVERDE MAY HAVE CROSSED BORDER INTO PARAGUAY, POSSIBLY VIA SMALL PRIVATE AIRCRAFT.

5. AUTHORITIES CLAIM POLITICAL SITUATION OUTWARDLY CALM THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. THIS CONTENTION SUPPORTED BY PRESS COMMENTARY AND OUR OWN OBSERVATION IN LA PAZ ITSELF. IT APPEARS GOB HAS OVERCOME SECOND SUBVERSION ATTEMPT FROM EXTREME RIGHT WING ELEMENTS WITHIN PAST SIX MONTHS.
BREWIN

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